Spread the Merry

Classroom Activity Guide

Australia Post

Who is this guide for?

- For anyone who wishes to engage in the Santa Mail program run by Australia Post. Post your letters by 25 November 2021 to give Santa enough time to respond before Christmas.
- The activities and challenges in this guide have been linked to primary Australian Curriculum outcomes and so are suitable for primary classroom use as well as remote learning, or familybased activity.
- Some activities may need to be scaled up or down in complexity, depending on the needs and abilities of your students or children.

How do I use this guide?

- As you wish! The magic of Christmas has been echoed throughout this guide! Keep the tradition of sending a letter to Santa alive by following the instructions on slide 4, and then pick and choose from the rest of the supporting activities to theme your teaching and learning around this special time of year.

Australian Curriculum Links

English

Make connections between students' own experiences and those of characters and events represented in texts drawn from different historical, social and cultural contexts. (ACELT1613)

- Identify and explain how choices in language, for example modality, emphasis, repetition and metaphor, influence personal response to different texts. (ACELT1615)
- Create literary texts that adapt or combine aspects of texts students have experienced in innovative ways. (ACELT1618)
- Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts, choosing and experimenting with text structures, language features, images and digital resources appropriate to purpose and audience (ACELY1714)
- Understand how ideas can be expanded and sharpened through careful choice of verbs, elaborated tenses and a range of adverb groups/phrases. (ACELA1523)

Science

- Changes to materials can be reversible or irreversible. (ACSSU095)
- Electrical energy can be transferred and transformed in electrical circuits and can be generated from a range of sources. (ACSSU097)

Maths

- Select and apply efficient mental and written strategies and appropriate digital technologies to solve problems involving all four operations with whole numbers. (ACMNA123)
- Continue and create sequences involving whole numbers, fractions and decimals. Describe the rule used to create the sequence (ACMNA133)
- Connect decimal representations to the metric system. (ACMMG135)

Design and Technologies

- Generate, develop and communicate design ideas and processes for audiences using appropriate technical terms and graphical representation techniques. (ACTDEP025)

Creative Arts

- Develop and apply techniques and processes when making their artworks. (ACAVAM115)
- Develop technical and expressive skills in singing and playing instruments with understanding of rhythm, pitch and form in a range of pieces, including in music from the community. (ACAMUM089)

Write your letter to Santa!

Step 1

Write your letter to Santa. Include:

- 1 thing you'd like to receive at Christmas
- 1 thing you'd like to give at Christmas
- What does Christmas mean to you?

Step 2

Put the letters and your classroom details in an envelope addressed to:

School of Santa Mail
LOCKED BAG 12000
Dandenong VIC 3175

Post your letters by 25 November 2021 to give Santa enough time to respond before Christmas.

He'll send one big, extra special response to your class so make sure you let him know which class he is writing to.*

Step 3

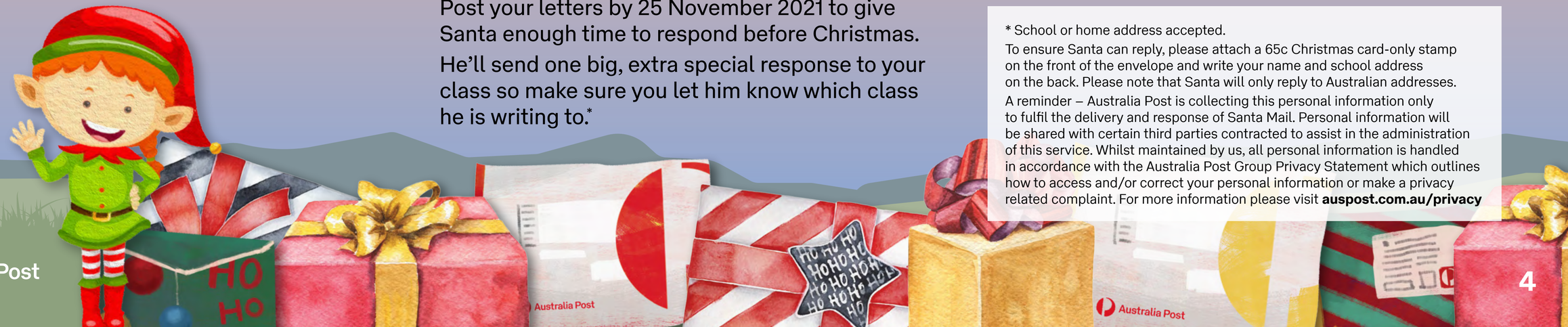
Track the progress of your letter with our Interactive Santa Tracker, available at **auspost.com.au/santamail**

While you wait, work through some of the other activities in this guide!

* School or home address accepted.

To ensure Santa can reply, please attach a 65c Christmas card-only stamp on the front of the envelope and write your name and school address on the back. Please note that Santa will only reply to Australian addresses.

A reminder – Australia Post is collecting this personal information only to fulfil the delivery and response of Santa Mail. Personal information will be shared with certain third parties contracted to assist in the administration of this service. Whilst maintained by us, all personal information is handled in accordance with the Australia Post Group Privacy Statement which outlines how to access and/or correct your personal information or make a privacy related complaint. For more information please visit **auspost.com.au/privacy**



Tips and tricks for writing your letter

Check out our sample letter available at **auspost.com.au/santamail**

- For more information on how to write a good letter, visit our Pen Pal Club page at **auspost.com.au/penpalclub**
- Decorate your letter with some Christmas-themed illustrations!
- Use clear, neat handwriting so Santa can read what you've written easily.
- Ask a friend or adult to read your letter before you send it.
- Use a thesaurus to elevate your writing with some super synonyms!
- For large text replies for children or students with low vision, address your envelope to:

  Santa Mail (large text)
  NORTH POLE 9999

Christmas Baking

Baking some Christmas treats is a great way to share the love and flavours of Christmas, as well as practising measuring, estimating and language skills while learning some relevant science concepts! Try out some of these Christmas cooking ideas:

- Bake some gingerbread people to represent your family!
- Invite some friends over for a Christmas cookie-off and test out different recipes!
- Explore the scents and tastes of Christmas by experimenting with different flavours in your Christmas cooking. How can you really capture the essence of Christmas in your baking?
- Create a Christmas cookie-basket for a neighbour or someone who might be spending Christmas on their own. Spread the merry by delivering it yourself!*

*Please follow relevant social distancing guidelines when visiting others!

Reindeer on strike!

Oh no! Santa's Reindeer have decided that this year, they deserve to put their feet up! Design a new mode of transport for Santa to use on Christmas Eve to get from the North Pole to Australia! Think about:

- How will the vehicle move? What fuel will it use? How will it be powered? Will Santa have to carry extra fuel? Is this a sustainable source of fuel?
- How far can your vehicle travel in one go? Can it make a trip all around the world? How will it get back to the North Pole?
- How much weight can it hold? Santa will need to bring all the presents!
- Draw and label a detailed plan for your vehicle, with lots of explanation notes.

A Magical Tale from History

The magical poem ‘Twas the Night before Christmas (originally named ‘A visit from St Nicholas’) published in 1823 tells the story of St Nick’s visit on Christmas Eve night. Read the poem and consider how this story of Christmas is different to your own experience of Christmas.

- Why do you think these things are different?
- What can we tell about the author of the poem?
- Where might the poem have been written?
- Which words make you feel excited? Why?
- How could you tell the story of ‘Twas the Night before Christmas in a different way?
- Rewrite the tale from your perspective, telling the story of the night before Christmas in your house.

Christmas Mad Libs

Use the template to create a Christmas story with a partner! Fill in the gaps by asking your partner to think of a noun, verb, name, adjective or adverb. Read out your finished story! Can you make it funnier? Can you make it serious?

- Noun - a thing, object or item, e.g. swimming pool, cat, playstation remote
- Verb - a doing word, e.g. jump, unwrap, cook
- Name - a proper noun, someone's name or the name of a place, e.g. Santa, Sydney
- Adjective - a describing word, e.g, smelly, sparkly, awful
- Adverb - describes the verb, how is something done? E.g. quickly, accidentally, bravely

Christmas Mad Libs Template

It was finally Christmas day and the smell of delicious _____(noun)_____ wafted into the garden, where me and _____(person's name)_____ were playing _____(game)_____. I had waited for this day _____(adverb)_____ for _____(number)_____ weeks! It was great to see _____(noun)_____ get the _____ she'd always wanted. I was over the moon with my new _____(adjective)_____ _____, I'd already shared it with my _____! _____(person's name)_____ came out of the kitchen _____ holding a huge tray of _____(noun)_____ and someone had brought in a beautiful _____(noun)_____ pie. We all pulled our _____ and clinked glasses! After lunch I felt really _____, but there was no time for rest! Our family always walk to _____ before settling down to _____ in the evening. Another great Australian Christmas!

Investigate: 12 Days of Christmas

The popular Christmas song The 12 Days of Christmas describes one lucky person's Christmas gifts from their 'true love'! But have you ever worked out how many presents were delivered in the song?

If the partridge on day one was also delivered on day two along with the two turtle doves, then 3 presents were delivered that day. What about on day 3? Day 5? Day 10?

- How many presents were delivered by the end of day 12?
- If each present cost $3 to send, how much did the person spend to deliver them all?
- For every 10 presents delivered, the postie allows themselves a 5 minute rest. How long has the postie rested by the time all the presents are delivered?
- How many presents would be delivered on the 13th day if the pattern continued? What about the 20th day?
- Write a modern day '12 days of Christmas' song and record it using Voice Recorder or Garageband!

Investigate: The Busy Elves

The North Pole elves work in shifts to collect children's letters and deliver them to Santa from the North Pole Post Office. Every hour they swap jobs so the other team is either collecting or delivering.

Investigate the number of moves you need to swap over the Green team with Red team so each team can complete their delivery.

Rules:

- Only 1 elf can move at a time
- Elves can only hop over 1 other elf
- Elves can only land on an empty space
- Elves can't hop backwards!

Santa is waiting for his deliveries, hurry!

Santa: A Character Study

What are Santa's qualities and how does he represent Christmas?
Create a representation of Santa and label it with their character qualities.
Consider:

- What is a 'Santa' type personality?
- Who has 'Santa' qualities in your house/class/community?
- What 'Santa' qualities do you have?
- How could you embody the qualities of a Santa more often?
- Which book or film characters do you know that have similar qualities?